

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02315 310239Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 /057 W  
-----052837 310246Z /14

O R 302115Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8703  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2315

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI  
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 29/30

REF: SANTIAGO 2265

1. AD HOC MILITARY PROSECUTOR GENERAL HECTOR OROZCO MARCH 29  
INTERROGATED MICHAEL TOWNLEY DURING APPROXIMATELY TEN HOURS IN  
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. OROZCO DEPARTED THE BUILDING AT 2130  
HOURS, POLITELY REFUSING TO GIVE ANY DETAILS TO NEWSMEN. TOWNLEY  
WAS NOT SEEN LEAVING THE BUILDING, CAUSING SPECULATION THAT HE  
HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER PREVENTIVE ARREST. REPORTEDLY THE QUESTIONING  
BEFORE OROZCO WILL CONTINUE TODAY.

2. MEANWHILE, THE GOC PLEADED FOR MODERATION IN THE MEDIA TREATMENT  
OF THE LATELIER CASE. NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS  
MAJOR HUGO MORALES, DECLARED MARCH 29 THAT THE MEDIA'S "NATURAL  
EAGERNESS" TO INFORM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE HAD LED TO A  
SERIOUS DISTORTION OF THE TRUTHS, CONFUSING PUBLIC OPINION  
AND AIDING CHILE'S ENEMIES IN FURTHER DAMAGING THE COUNTRY'S  
IMAGE. ORALES ADDED THAT THE GOC DESIRED A PROMPT END TO THE  
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INVESTIGATION AND FOR THE CASE TO BE CLEARED UP, BUT AS THIS WAS  
A JUDICIAL MATTER, THE MEDIA SHOULD ACT WITH DUE RESTRAINT.

3. THE SANTIAGO PRESS PICKED UP U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY PROPPER'S  
RETURN TO CHILE MARCH 29. THE EMBASSY ISSUED A STATEMENT ANNOUNCING  
PROPPER'S ARRIVAL AND NOTED THAT HIS RETURN FOLLOWED GOC ASSURANCES  
THAT BOTH TOWNLEY AND ARMANDO FERNANDEZ WOULD PRESENT THEMSELVES

BEFORE JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.  
LANDAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PREVENTIVE DETENTION  
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**Draft Date:** 30 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SANTIA02315  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, SHUM, CI, (TOWNLEY, MICHAEL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014